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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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Henderson & Sturm
Suite 1020
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue N W
Washington, DC 20004-1707

EXAMINER

HOWARD, SHARON LEE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1615

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/030,002

Applicant(s)

CABOCHE ET AL.

Examiner

Sharon L. Howard

Art Unit

1615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 1615

Examiner acknowledges receipt of Preamendment A filed on 3/19/02.

Claims 1-9 have been cancelled.

New claims 10-18 have been added and are now pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 4,16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 14,16 and 18, the terms "preferably, especially, in particular" render the claims indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,454,161).

Okada teaches a method for producing a branched glucose polymer by reacting an amylaceous substance with a branching enzyme, by means of

Art Unit: 1615

conversion of an alpha-1,4-glucan into alpha-1,6 by branching in order to produce a structure similar to that of glycogen or an amylopectin (col.1, lines 10-15, at lines 36-39, and at lines 64-68, bridging col.2, lines 1-4), and thereby to enhance the qualities of the food products into which they are incorporated and, in particular, to prevent retrogradation of the amylaceous material in these food products. Okada teaches that the branching enzyme can come from animal, plant or microorganism sources (col.1, lines 52-56). Okada teaches that a solution of an amylaceous substance, such as starch, amylose or amylopectin, prepared by gelatinization and dispersion, is thus exposed to the branching enzyme, and is then mixed with the desired food products, without first undergoing any other treatment or, if necessary, after concentration and drying (col.2, lines 11-16).

Okada does not teach the particular amounts.

However, the parameters are merely descriptive. Okada teaches the same debranching enzyme and starch. Therefore, there is no patentable distinction of the prior art teachings of a method of producing a branched glucose polymer and preventing retrogradation of amylaceous substances in food products.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teachings of Okada, because Okada teaches branched glucose polymers and a method for making the polymers, having the reasonable expectation of preventing retrogradation of the amylaceous material in food products, thereby enhancing the quality of the food product.

Art Unit: 1615

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharon L. Howard whose telephone number is (703) 308-4359. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K. Page can be reached on (703) 308-2927. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1234.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Howard".

Sharon Howard
September 25, 2003